

CTRad bulletin

Academic radiation oncology think tank 2013

- CTRad held a third academic think tank meeting on 11 March at the RCR, again asking invited centres to submit SWOT analyses outlining progress made and challenges met over the past two years. The SWOT analyses and centres' presentations showed many centres have made progress in a short space of time, with an increasing number of centres of excellence and leaders at professorial level in the UK.
- In 2012, two CR-UK Clinical and Translational Research Committee Programme Grants were awarded to radiotherapy projects. These two centres (Institute of Cancer Research / Royal Marsden Hospital and Cambridge) presented the background work, the process they went through, the links they had to make and collaborations they fostered in gearing up for the grant application, and how the work is continuing to build the research team and get the research going. Delegates found these two talks very insightful.
- There was discussion that the Research Excellence Framework (REF)-type perspectives on journal impact factors are limiting where clinical academics may publish, because some universities do not rate highly acclaimed radiotherapy-related journals. There are no clear solutions to this problem; the CTRad Exec Group are investigating other European centres' systems to measure impact, and would welcome any suggestions and comments.
- CTRad is again very grateful for the Royal College of Radiologists' (RCR) commitment to academic career and trainee development, and their involvement and engagement with the NCRI Cancer Conference, especially via their Clinical Oncology faculty senior officers.

Opportunities for patient and public involvement (PPI) in trial design

- Do you know how and when to involve patients and carers during trial design stage? Do you have problems getting your trial through ethics? The CTRad consumers produced a guide suggesting opportunities for lay involvement for both patients and researchers to consider when designing a trial. You can visit the CTRad website to download the guide: http://www.ncri.org.uk/ctrad/res/ppi_in_trial/. The CTRad consumers are always willing to share their unique experience and expertise, so talk to them when you are beginning to design a trial.

Leadership transition

- On 15 April, Tim Illidge handed over the Chair of CTRad to Neil Burnet at the CTRad Exec Group meeting, and Anthony Chalmers has taken on the role of Deputy Chair. Tim Illidge remains on the CTRad Executive Group as an ex-officio member.
- We are also delighted that following a competitive recruitment process drawn from the membership of CTRad, Ricky Sharma (Oxford) has been appointed to the role of WS2 clinical co-chair.

Radiotherapy-Drug Combinations Consortium

- The CTRad Radiotherapy-Drug Combinations Consortium is an exciting initiative developed with CR-UK's Drug Development Office (DDO). This is a consortium of laboratories with complementary skills that together have the necessary expertise and facilities to conduct rapid, high quality, pre-clinical studies of radiotherapy-drug combinations in cellular and animal models. The Consortium will be led by Anthony Chalmers and governed by a Steering Group comprising the co-chairs of WS 1 and WS 2, together with nominated research theme leads for six scientific areas. More information will be available on the CTRad website in due course.

Research Radiographers development

- Radiographers are a vital part of the radiotherapy research team. The Society and College of Radiographers (SCoR) recently conducted a workforce survey to find a large gap in radiographer research capacity and training.
- Together with the SCoR, a radiographers' think tank meeting is being put together for September, to address the challenges in the research culture of radiographers. The day will include identifying weaknesses and barriers, invited speakers to share feasible local mechanisms, and facilitated networking to link attendees with other centres close to them. The aim is to empower delegates going back to their centres to stimulate discussion to move forward radiographer research locally.

Forthcoming activities

- **Imaging in Radiotherapy Workshop, Friday 28 June 2013:** Tim Maughan, Kaye Williams (WS1) and Kevin Harrington (WS1) are organising this Imaging in Radiotherapy workshop in Oxford. The aim of this workshop is to foster collaboration on research in radiotherapy between the recently funded CR-UK/EPSRC imaging centres. This is an open workshop and you can see the programme on the CTRad website: <http://www.ncri.org.uk/ctrad/news/>
- **Outcome Data Collection for Proton Beam Therapy Workshop, Monday 8 July 2013:** The CTRad Proton Beam Therapy (PBT) Research Meeting in London on 6 September 2012 identified a clear need for clinical outcome data to be collected for every patient treated with PBT once the service opens in the UK at the end of 2017. Gillian Whitfield (WS4) and Susan Davidson are putting together a workshop in Manchester to discuss what data should be collected, how that should be done at a national level, and what systems already exist. Details on how to register can be found on the CTRad website: <http://www.ncri.org.uk/ctrad/news/>

NCRI Cancer Conference, Liverpool, 3–6 November 2013

- Early bird registration deadline is on **31 July** and late breaking submission opens on **1 August**. Don't miss the chance to present your work at the leading international cancer research meeting in the UK. To submit your abstract or to register, visit <http://conference.ncri.org.uk/>

Contact us

If you have any feedback, news you want to share, or want to find out more about topics mentioned above, please contact the CTRad Secretariat (CTRad@ncri.org.uk). You can also browse the CTRad web pages www.ncri.org.uk/ctrad for more information and future dates of CTRad events.

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